

Message Text

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12

ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5578

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR EG LY

SUBJECT: QADDAFI'S ANTI-EGYPTIAN OUTBURST AT OAU SUMMIT

1. LOCAL PRESS AUGUST 2 GLEEFULLY REPORTS HYSTERICAL ANTI-EGYPTIAN OUTBURST BY LIBYAN REVOLUTIONARY COMMAND COUNCIL (RCC) CHAIRMAN QADDAFI AT PLENARY SESSION OF OAU SUMMIT CONFERENCE IN KAMPALA PREVIOUS DAY. ALL PAPERS PROMINENTLY CARRY STORY, DESCRIBING QADDAFI BEHAVIOR AS INSOLENT, INSULTING, FARICAL, SCANDALOUS, AND SICK, BUT HODA TAWFIQ OF GUMHURIYYA WHO IS PRESENT IN KAMPALA, REPORTS IN GREATEST DETAIL.

2. ACCORDING TO TAWFIQ, FIRST SCENE OF FARCE BEGAN JULY 31 WHEN YASIR ARAFAT ADDRESSED OPEN SESSION OF SUMMIT CONFERENCE CONCERNING HISTORICAL ASPECTS OF PALESTINIAN CAUSE AND CALLED UPON AFRICAN DELEGATES TO ADOPT RESOLUTION TO EXPEL ISRAEL FROM UN. AFTER ARAFAT SPEECH, PRES MOBUTU OF ZAIRE REPORTEDLY TOOK FLOOR TO COMMENT THAT MATTER OF EXPULSION REQUIRED CAREFUL STUDY AND NOT HASTY ACTION,

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REFERRRING CONFEREES TO KHARTOUM PRESS CONFERENCE IN WHICH PRES SADAT

SPELLED OUT PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH EXPULSION. DELEGATES THEN APPARENTLY CALLED UPON MINSTATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS MUHAMMAD RIAD FOR CLARIFICATION OF SADAT'S VIEWS. RIAD STATED THAT SADAT HAD MEANT THAT ALL CONSEQUENCES OF ANY MOVE TO EXPEL SHOULD BE CAREFULLY WEIGHTED BEFORE ANY ACTION TAKEN, BUT THAT, AT LATER DATE, IF ISRAEL CONTINUED INTRANSIGENT, EGYPT MIGHT ADOPT MORE MILITANT STAND.

3. TAWFIQ STATES THAT AT AUGUST 1 SESSION, ELEVEN AFRICAN HEADS OF STATE SPOKE IN SUPPORT OF EGYPTIAN POSITION, COMMENTING THAT MATTER OF ISRAELI EXPULSION INDEED NEEDED FURTHER STUDY. DURING THESE SPEECHES, QADDAFI REPORTEDLY BECAME EXTREMELY WORKED UP AND AT LAST ASKED TO ADDRESS DELEGATES. RCC CHAIRMAN THEN STATED THAT HE WOULD LIKE TO POSE QUESTION TO PLO LEADER ARAFAT: WHO REPRESENTS PALESTINIAN PEOPLE, PRES SADAT OR PLO? QADDAFI ATTEMPT TO PROVOKE CLASH BETWEEN PLO AND GOE APPARENTLY SIDE-STEPPED BY ARAFAT, WHO BLANDLY REPLIED THAT RABAT ARAB SUMMIT HAD DECREED THAT PLO LEGITIMATE REPRESENTATIVE OF PALESTINIAN PEOPLE.

4. QADDAFI AGAIN TOOK FLOOR, HOWEVER, AND PRESSED AD HOMINEM ATTACK ON PRES SADAT, STATING THAT SADAT DOES NOT REPRESENT VIEW-POINT OF EGYPTIAN PEOPLE AND THAT ALL SADAT SAID WAS MERELY HIS PERSONAL OPINION. MINSTATE RIAD ATTEMPTED TO TAKE FLOOR ON POINT OF ORDER DURING THIS OUTBURST TO DEFEND SADAT, BUT RCC CHAIRMAN REPORTEDLY CONTINUED ON FOR SOME TIME AMID INCREASINGLY AGITATED REACTION OF CONFEREES.

5. FINALLY, CONFERENCE PRESIDENT IDI AMIN YIELDED FLOOR TO RIAD, WHO STATED THAT HE WAS CERTAIN THAT CONFERENCE WOULD NOT HAVE ALLOWED QADDAFI TO SPEAK IF IT HAD BEEN KNOWN BEFOREHAND THAT SPEECH TO BE FILLED WITH SUCH VITUPERATION. EGYPTIAN MINSTATE REPORTEDLY CONTINUED

THAT HE WOULD NOT DESCENT TO LEVEL OF LIBYAN LEADER, BUT HOPED THAT CONFERENCE WOULD TAKE PROPER MEASURES TO RESTRAIN QADDAFI FROM FUTURE OUTBREAKS. RIAD REMARKS, ACCORDING TO TAWFIQ, COMPLETELY UNHINGED QADDAFI, WHO REPORTEDLY LOST CONTROL AND SCREAMED THAT RIAD SHOULD NOT HAVE ADDRESSED HEAD OF STATE IN SUCH MANNER AND CALLED ON DELEGATES TO EXPEL RIAD FROM CONFERENCE. QADDAFI CONTINUED THAT RIAD ONLY FIT TO BE JOURNALIST FOR IMPERIALIST, AMERICAN-BACKED NEWSPAPERS OF CAIRO AND FINALLY, REPORTEDLY DRIPPING SWEAT, AT LAST UNCLASSIFIED

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SAT DOWN.

6. FEW MINUTES LATER, HOWEVER, QADDAFI WAS BACK ON FEET AGAIN, FIRST TO ASK THAT HIS REMARKS CONCERNING SADAT BE STRIKEN FROM CONFERENCE RECORD, THEN, APPARENTLY IN ANOTHER SPASM OF ANGER, TO DENOUNCE ALL AFRICAN HEADS OF STATE AND TO THREATEN TO WITHDRAW LIBYA FROM OAU, ALONG WITH LIBYAN FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE. QADDAFI APPARENTLY CONCLUDED WITH SCORNFUL COMMENT RE AFRICAN POLICIES ON

SOUTH AFRICAN QUESTION AND SAID HE WOULD ACCEPT SOUTH AFRICAN
WORKERS IN LIBYA.

7. AHRAM, IN EDITORIAL, SEIZES OPPORTUNITY AFFORDED BY QADDAFI
RANTINGS IN KAMPALA TO TAKE LOFTY, UNDERSTANDING TONE. COMMENTING
THAT COMPLETE ISOLATION OF QADDAFI EVIDENT FROM EVENTS AT KAMPALA,
AHRAM CONTINUES THAT RCC LEADER CANNOT REALLY BE BLAMED, AS
DISRUPTIVE TACTICS AT OAU SUMMIT OBVIOUSLY ACTIONS OF A SICK MAN.

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